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Book Review: Twenty-Five Short Cases in Library Personnel Administration

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ble time and energy from other urgent
tasks which this second edition undoubt-
edly represents.

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Shaffer, Kenneth R. *Twenty-Five Short Cases in Library Personnel Administra-
tion*. (Case Studies in Library Adminis-

Mr. Shaffer’s book deserves the atten-
tion and consideration of all members of
the library profession. For law librarians,
it is of particular interest because it pre-
sents, for the first time, an organized use
of the case method of instruction in the
field of library science. It is true that the
cases depicted are really “situations,” but
nevertheless the employment of this tech-
nique in this field of endeavor is a vital
development.

The selection of situations has been
well designed to illustrate sound general
personnel administration principles. At
the same time, the examples are con-
structed to bring out the special applica-
tion of these principles to the area of li-
brary work. All librarians, law librarians
included, and even the expert will bene-
fit from a reading of this volume.

Whether personnel administration be
considered an art or science, much think-
ing still remains to be done in the area.
A reading of these cases will give a very
strong feeling that administration is more
of an art than a science, especially when
the subject matter under consideration is
*homo sapiens*. The emphasis on the hu-
man approach by the editor is well un-
derlined.

The last case in the volume, “A
Twenty-Two Hour Week for A Profes-
sional Staff,” is of special interest and
gives much food for thought concerning
the status of librarians.

The reviewer looks forward with great
anticipation to future volumes in this
series.

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1959. Pp. lxxxvii, 544. £2 15s. ($11.00)

The second edition of *Street on Torts*
retains the essential features of the first